

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

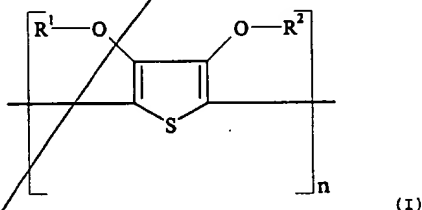
1. (Canceled). ✓

2. (Canceled). ✓

3. (Canceled). ✓

4. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal alignment layer obtainable by a method of making a liquid crystal alignment layer comprising the steps of:

(i) providing a layer on a substrate, said layer comprising a polythiophene according to formula (I):



wherein R¹ and R² ~~each independently represent hydrogen or a C₁-C₄ alkyl group or~~ together represent a C₁-C₄ alkylene group or a cycloalkylene group; and

(ii) mechanically rendering said layer liquid crystal aligning.

5. (Original) Liquid crystal alignment layer according to claim 4 having a surface resistivity lower than 10⁵ Ω/□.

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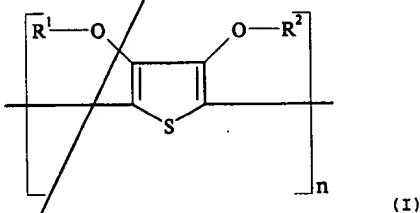
6. (Canceled). }

7. (Currently Amended) Liquid crystal alignment layer according to claim 4, wherein said liquid crystal alignment layer is a patterned layer including conducting

and non-conducting areas and wherein said liquid crystal alignment layer is not removed at non-conducting areas.

8. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal device comprising a pair of substrates each having an electrode thereon and a liquid crystal disposed between said substrates, wherein at least one of said substrates is provided with a layer system comprising a liquid crystal alignment layer obtainable ^{eq} by a method of making a liquid crystal alignment layer comprising the steps of:

(i) providing a layer on a substrate, said layer comprising a polythiophene according to formula (I):



wherein R^1 and R^2 ~~each independently represent hydrogen or a C_1-C_4 alkyl group or together represent a C_1-C_4 alkylene group or a cycloalkylene group; and~~

(ii) mechanically rendering said layer liquid crystal aligning.

9. (Original) Liquid crystal device according to claim 8, wherein each of said substrates consists essentially of a material selected from the group consisting of poly(ethylene terephthalate), poly(ethylene naphthalate),

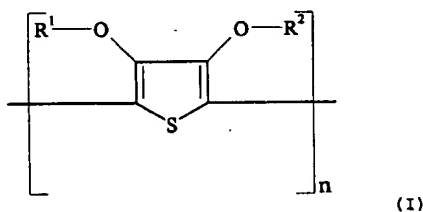
polycarbonate, polydicyclopentadiene, poly(ether sulfone), glass and a glass/plastic laminate.

10. (Original) Liquid crystal device according to claim 8, wherein each of said substrates is provided with an electroconductive layer.

11. (Original) Liquid crystal device according to claim 10, wherein said electroconductive layer on at least one of said substrates comprises an indium-tin oxide layer.

12. (Currently Amended) A liquid ~~liquid~~ crystal device according to claim 8 comprising a pair of substrates each having an electrode thereon and a liquid crystal disposed between said substrates, wherein at least one of said substrates is provided with a layer system comprising a liquid crystal alignment layer obtainable by a method of making a liquid crystal alignment layer comprising the steps of:

(i) providing a layer on a substrate, said layer comprising a polythiophene according to formula (I):



wherein R¹ and R² each independently represent hydrogen or a C₁-C₄ alkyl group or together represent a C₁-C₄ alkylene group or a cycloalkylene group; and

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(ii) mechanically rendering said layer liquid crystal aligning, wherein an adhesion-improving a passivating anchor layer, having barrier properties with regard to compounds which may diffuse from said substrate, is provided between at least one of said substrates and said liquid crystal alignment layer.

13. (Currently Amended) Liquid crystal device according to claim 8, wherein said substrates are provided with a barrier layer to prevent diffusion of oxygen and/or water vapor through the substrate.

14. (Original) A liquid crystal display comprising a liquid crystal alignment layer according to claim 4 or a liquid crystal device according to claim 8.

15. (Canceled). ✓

16. (Canceled). ✓